

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-26 are pending in the Application. Applicant elected claims 1-7 and 10-21, and added new claims 22-26, in the response filed November 26, 2007. Claims 1-7 and 10-26 have been allowed in the Office action mailed February 20, 2008. Claims 8 and 9 are cancelled by this response, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to re-file cancelled claims 8 and 9 in a later-filed continuing application. Claims 1, 10, 17, and 22 are independent claims. Claims 2-7, 11-16, 18-21, and 23-26 depend from independent claims 1, 10, 17, and 22, respectively.

Applicant expresses sincere appreciation to the Examiner for the recognition of the patentable subject matter of claims 1-7 and 10-26.

Conclusion

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the claims and cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicant will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicant expressly reserves the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

Applicants respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowability in the Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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